



Ministry of Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry

New Farmers Scheme and Land Lease Renewal Programme 2023-2024

In an effort to encourage new individuals to venture into sugarcane farming and to enhance increased cane production, the Ministry of Sugar Industry ('Ministry') has been provided with a total of \$2.0 million in its 2023-2024 budget for New Farmers and Land Lease Renewal Programme. From the \$2.0 million, \$1.5 million is allocated to assist farmers that intend to renew their sugarcane land leases from **1st August 2023** to **31st July 2024** while \$0.5 million is set aside for individuals that want to purchase/lease land for the first time from **1st August 2023** to **31st July 2024**. Under this program, the Ministry will pay 30% of the cost or a maximum of \$7,500, whichever is lower.

Based on above, the Ministry is now inviting expressions of interest from interested individuals to submit their applications to the Ministry to request for grant assistance. The applications will close on 30th April 2024 or earlier, if the funds are been fully utilized.

Criteria and Guideline for the Grant - New Farmers and Land Lease Renewal:

- (a) Grant will be provided on first-come first-serve basis.
- (b) Conditions of the Grant:
 - i. Grant is available to farmers for land lease renewals. For all lease renewals, applicants must provide valid offer letters obtained from iTaukei Land Trust Board or the Lands Department or any other bona-fide lessor.
 - ii. Grant is also available for purchase of new farms (only for new farmers that will lease/purchase sugarcane farms for the first time). Applicants must provide copies of signed sales and purchase agreement or lease offer letters.
 - iii. The grant will not apply to the lease transactions between the immediate family members. The applicant should not own any agricultural land or agricultural lease under his/her name at the time they apply for this grant;
 - iv. Only one applicant shall be assisted per household;
 - v. The applicant should have knowledge, experience, crop plan and succession plan in the management of sugarcane farms;
 - vi. The land purchased should have a minimum of 2.0 hectares of good sugarcane and arable land for cane planting; and
 - vii. The farm must be strategically located with access to roads for transportation.

Interested applicants must submit completed grant application forms with accurate information and all supporting documents to the Ministry of Sugar Industry before the deadline. Application forms are available at the Ministry of Sugar Industry, and FSC, Sugar Cane Growers Council, and Sugar Cane Growers Fund offices in respecting sectors.

For further information regarding this program, please contact Ms. Renu Dayal or Mr. Rusiate Veikoso on 6664724 or 9904703.

Yogesh J. Karan
PERMANENT SECRETARY